

## CLAIMS

1. A programmable logic circuit control apparatus comprising:

a controller (4) which supplies a control signal to an external programmable logic circuit (1) having a function of changing a logic configuration in accordance with a

5 supplied control signal;

a module storage memory (2) which stores a plurality of modules each comprised of data defining a logic configuration of said programmable logic circuit (1); and

a module usage order designation memory (3) which has a plurality of ordered memory positions, each of the memory positions storing data for designating an address of  
10 a memory position of said module storage memory (2) in which a module to be executed is stored or storing data for designating an address of another memory position of this module usage order designation memory (3),

wherein said controller (4) acquires data stored at a memory position in said module usage order designation memory (3),

15 determines which of an address of the memory position storing the module and an address of the another memory position is designated by acquired data,

when having determined that said acquired data designates an address of the module, acquires said module stored in a memory position indicated by said address from said module storage memory (2), generates a control signal which controls said

20 programmable logic circuit (1) to take a logic configuration defined by said module and supplies generated control signal to said programmable logic circuit (1), and

when having determined that said acquired data designates another memory position, acquires data stored at said another memory position from said module usage order designation memory (3).

25 2. The programmable logic circuit control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when data stored at a memory position in said module usage order designation memory (3)

designates another memory position in said module usage order designation memory (3),  
said data includes condition definition data designating a condition to start a process of  
acquiring data stored at said another memory position, and

said controller (4) determines whether a condition designated by said condition  
5 definition data included in said acquired data is fulfilled or not when having determined that  
said acquired data designates another memory position,

acquires data stored at said another memory position of said module usage order  
designation memory (3) when having determined said condition is fulfilled, and

10 aborts acquisition of data at said another memory position when having determined  
that said condition is not fulfilled.

3. The programmable logic circuit control apparatus according to claim 2, wherein  
said condition designated by said condition definition data relates to a value given by a  
signal which is generated at a predetermined node of said programmable logic circuit (1),  
and

15 when having determined that data stored at a memory position in said module usage  
order designation memory (3) designates another memory position, said controller (4)  
acquires said signal from said node of said programmable logic circuit (1), and determines  
based on said value given by said acquired signal whether that condition which is  
designated by said condition definition data included in said data acquired from said  
20 module usage order designation memory (3) is fulfilled or not.

4. The programmable logic circuit control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
data stored at a memory position in said module usage order designation memory (3)  
includes identification data for identifying which one of an address of the memory position  
storing a module and an address of another memory position is designated by said stored  
25 data,

said controller (4) determines based on said identification data included in said data

acquired from said module usage order designation memory (3) which of an address of the memory position storing the module and an address of the another memory position is designated.

- 5        5. A programmable logic circuit control apparatus that acquires a module  
comprised of data defining a logic configuration of an external programmable logic circuit  
(1) having a function of changing a logic configuration in accordance with a supplied  
control signal from a module storage memory (2) which stores a plurality of modules,  
generates a control signal which controls said programmable logic circuit (1) to take a logic  
configuration defined by said acquired module and supplies generated control signal to said  
10    programmable logic circuit (1), and that comprises:

- means which acquires data stored at a memory position in an external module usage  
order designation memory (3) which has a plurality of ordered memory positions, each of  
the memory position storing data for designating an address of a memory position of said  
module storage memory (2) in which a module to be executed is stored or storing data for  
15    designating an address of another memory position of this module usage order designation  
memory (3), from said module usage order designation memory (3);

means which determines which of an address of the memory position storing the  
module and an address of the another memory position is designated by acquired data;

- means which, when it is determined that said acquired data designates an address of  
20    the module, acquires said module stored in a memory position indicated by said address  
from said module storage memory (2), and changes said logic configuration of said  
programmable logic circuit (1) so that said programmable logic circuit (1) takes a logic  
configuration defined by said module; and

- means which, when it is determined that said acquired data designates another  
25    memory position, acquires data stored at said another memory position from said module  
usage order designation memory (3).

6. A programmable logic circuit control method which supplies a control signal to an external programmable logic circuit (1) having a function of changing a logic configuration in accordance with said supplied control signal, and comprises the steps of:

5 storing a plurality of modules each comprised of data defining a logic configuration of said programmable logic circuit (1);

storing data for designating an address of a memory position storing a module or an address of another memory position at each of a plurality of ordered memory positions;

acquiring data stored at each of said memory positions;

10 determining which of an address of the memory position storing the module and an address of the another memory position is designated by the acquired data;

when it is determined that said acquired data designates an address of a memory position storing a module, acquiring said module stored in the memory position indicated by said address, generating a control signal which controls said programmable logic circuit (1) to take a logic configuration defined by said module and supplying said control signal to  
15 said programmable logic circuit (1); and

when it is determined that said acquired data designates an address of another memory position, acquiring data stored at said another memory position.

7. A programmable logic circuit control method that acquires a module comprised of data defining a logic configuration of an external programmable logic circuit (1) having a  
20 function of changing a logic configuration in accordance with a supplied control signal from a module storage memory (2) which stores a plurality of modules, generates a control signal which controls said programmable logic circuit (1) to take a logic configuration defined by said acquired module and supplies said control signal to said programmable logic circuit (1), and that comprises the steps of:

25 acquiring data stored at a memory position in an external module usage order designation memory (3) which has a plurality of ordered memory positions, each of the

memory positions storing data for designating an address of a memory position of said module storage memory (2) in which a module to be executed is stored or storing data for designating an address of another memory position of this module usage order designation memory (3);

- 5           determining which of an address of the memory position storing the module and an address of the another memory position is designated by the acquired data;

          when it is determined that said acquired data designates an address of a memory position storing a module, acquiring said module stored in the memory position indicated by said address from said module storage memory (2), and changing said logic

- 10          configuration of said programmable logic circuit (1) so that said programmable logic circuit (1) takes a logic configuration defined by said module; and

          when it is determined that said acquired data designates another memory position, acquiring data stored at said another memory position from said module usage order designation memory (3).

- 15           8. A program for allowing a computer to function as:

          a controller (4) which supplies a control signal to an external programmable logic circuit (1) having a function of changing a logic configuration in accordance with said supplied control signal;

- 20           a module storage memory (2) which stores a plurality of modules each comprised of data defining a logic configuration of said programmable logic circuit (1); and

- a module usage order designation memory (3) which has a plurality of ordered memory positions, each of the memory positions storing data for designating an address of a memory position of said module storage memory (2) in which a module to be executed is stored or storing data for designating an address of another memory position of the module
- 25          usage order designation memory (3),

          wherein said controller (4) acquires data stored at a memory position in said module

usage order designation memory (3),

determines which of an address of the memory position storing the module and an address of the another memory position is designated by the acquired data,

when having determined that said acquired data designates an address of a module,  
5 acquires said module stored in a memory position indicated by said address from said module storage memory (2), generates a control signal which controls said programmable logic circuit (1) to take a logic configuration defined by said module and supplies the generated control signal to said programmable logic circuit (1), and

when having determined that said acquired data designates another memory  
10 position, acquires data stored at said another memory position from said module usage order designation memory (3).

9. A program for allowing a computer to function as a programmable logic circuit control apparatus that acquires a module comprised of data defining a logic configuration of an external programmable logic circuit (1) having a function of changing a logic  
15 configuration in accordance with a supplied control signal from a module storage memory (2) which stores a plurality of modules, generates a control signal which controls said programmable logic circuit (1) to take a logic configuration defined by said acquired module and supplies generated control signal to said programmable logic circuit (1), and for further allowing said computer to perform the functions of:

20 acquiring data stored at a memory position in an external module usage order designation memory (3) which has a plurality of ordered memory positions, each of the memory positions storing data for designating an address of a memory position of said module storage memory (2) in which a module to be executed is stored or storing data for another memory position of this module usage order designation memory (3);

25 determining which of an address of the memory position storing the module and an address of the another memory position is designated by acquired data;

when it is determined that said acquired data designates an address of a module, acquiring said module stored in a memory position indicated by said address from said module storage memory (2), and changing said logic configuration of said programmable logic circuit (1) so that said programmable logic circuit (1) takes a logic configuration  
5 defined by said module; and

when it is determined that said acquired data designates another memory position, acquiring data stored at said another memory position from said module usage order designation memory (3).